

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 6, 2010

Senate Joint Resolution

No. 18

**Introduced by Senators Simitian, Cedillo, Hancock, Maldonado,
Pavley, and Price**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Blumenfield, Chesbro, Huffman, Lieu,
Monning, Nava, Ruskin, Salas, and Skinner)

August 25, 2009

Senate Joint Resolution No. 18—Relative to marine aquaculture.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 18, as amended, Simitian. Marine aquaculture.

This measure would request the Congress to develop a comprehensive federal regulatory framework for marine aquaculture that *undergoes complete environmental review and* is at least as protective as that codified in California's Sustainable Oceans Act to address environmental and economic concerns.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, On June 12, 2009, President Barack Obama
2 established the federal Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force to
3 make recommendations for a comprehensive, integrated national
4 policy that addresses the use of ocean resources and ensures the
5 protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean and
6 coastal ecosystems and resources; and
7 WHEREAS, The protection of California's spectacular
8 1,100-mile coastline is of the utmost importance to Californians
9 and our state's coastal and ocean-dependent industries, including
10 commercial fishing; and

1 WHEREAS, California's ocean waters contain marine protected
2 areas and national marine sanctuaries that have special
3 conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, cultural,
4 archaeological, scientific, educational, and aesthetic qualities and
5 are particularly sensitive to the impacts of marine aquaculture; and

6 WHEREAS, Marine aquaculture poses serious risks to
7 California's ocean environment, including harmful interactions
8 between escaped fish and native ecosystems; pollution from excess
9 nutrients, waste feed, and release of drugs and chemicals;
10 introduction and spread of disease, pathogens, and parasites to the
11 ocean environment and marine wildlife; heightened pressure on
12 ocean ecosystems through wild capture of forage fish for feedstuffs;
13 threats to maritime safety and vessel navigation; potential negative
14 public health impacts; and stress on existing commercial fisheries
15 and coastal dependent communities; and

16 WHEREAS, Without strict protections for the natural
17 environment, marine aquaculture has the potential to degrade the
18 quality of our ocean water and adversely impact our wildlife and
19 resources, including native fish and marine mammals such as the
20 California seal and sea lion; and

21 WHEREAS, The California Sustainable Oceans Act (Chapter
22 36 of the Statutes of 2006) creates the strongest state regulation
23 of marine aquaculture by providing comprehensive state standards
24 *and requiring complete environmental review* to guard against the
25 risks associated with marine aquaculture; and

26 WHEREAS, Responsible marine aquaculture that includes strict
27 and enforceable standards to protect the environment and
28 consumers has the ability to supply consumers with safe and high
29 quality seafood, protect the ocean from harm, and ensure the health
30 of native fish and wildlife; and

31 WHEREAS, Permitting marine aquaculture in federal waters
32 without a comprehensive, overarching federal regulatory
33 framework that includes science-based standards to protect the
34 ocean could result in significant and irreversible adverse
35 environmental consequences to coastal states; and

36 WHEREAS, The permitting of marine aquaculture in federal
37 waters off California's coast is of special interest to the state
38 because of the risks that marine aquaculture poses to the state's
39 ocean ecosystems; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully requests that the Congress of the United States develop a comprehensive federal regulatory framework for marine aquaculture that *undergoes complete environmental review and is* at least as protective as that codified in California's Sustainable Oceans Act to address the many environmental and economic concerns; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully opposes expansion of marine aquaculture off the Pacific Coast without such a regulatory framework in place, and respectfully opposes any federal policies and legislation that would weaken California's role in marine aquaculture permitting decisions, given the threat that marine aquaculture poses to the integrity of California's coastal and ocean health, dependent tourism, and fishing economies and communities; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, to the Secretary of Commerce, and to the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

CORRECTIONS:

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